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Utilization of the development dividend

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
II.	Proposals	5–49	3
	A. Promotion of electronic commerce (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)	5–10	3
	B. Capacity-building in economic and social policy analysis in Africa through the networking of expertise (Economic Commission for Africa)	11–16	4
	C. Extension of access of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to Mercure satellite telecommunication system for interconnectivity in environmental information and data (United Nations Environment Programme)	17	5
	D. Computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control (United Nations International Drug Control Programme)	18–23	5
	E. Capacity-building and networking for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in least developed countries (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements)	24–29	7

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F. On-line network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance (Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat) 30–37 8

G. Research network for development policy analysis (Department of Economic and Social Affairs 38–43 9

H. Activities for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) 44–49 10

Annex

Resource requirements, by project 13

I. Introduction

1. The present report was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/220 of 7 April 1999 on the development account, in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, approved, from the eight proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend (A/53/374), four proposals on an ad hoc and one-time basis only, without setting a precedent and without prejudicing the outcome of its consideration of the sustainability and establishment of the mechanism and modalities of the development account.

2. The Executive Committee-Economic and Social Affairs entities responsible for the approved proposals have been advised of the guidance provided by resolution 53/220 in their implementation.

3. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested that the proposals be reformulated and implemented in accordance with the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, as revised in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998. All the proposals earlier contained in the report A/53/374 have been reformulated in accordance with this requirement.

4. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to reformulate the other proposals contained in the above-mentioned report (see A/53/374, sect. III.C, F, G and H) along the following criteria: projects should (a) have multiplier effects and promote capacity-building primarily in developing countries, (b) promote regional and interregional economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries, and (c) use available human and technical resources from the developing regions. In compliance with these requirements, while the project contained in document A/53/374, Sect. III.C, is being reconsidered for subsequent submissions by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the projects contained in document A/53/374, sections III.F, G and H, have been reformulated. These projects focus the proposed activities more sharply on bringing together national and regional experts at the subregional and regional level in activities which will help transmit data, information, learned and shared experiences back to the programme countries by networking of developing country experts in various developmental fields. The proposals will bring together policy makers and provide the basis for long-term interaction through the use of information networks, training, enhancement of skills and pooling of national and regional expertise.

II. Proposals

A. Promotion of electronic commerce (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)

Objectives

5. Under the overall goal of promoting the development of developing countries in the context of globalization and interdependence, the objective proposed is to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, including least developed countries and also countries with economies in transition, for trading at lower costs through electronic commerce.

Background

6. Electronic commerce is attracting attention in multilateral discussions due to its potential impact on international trade and development. It offers excellent opportunities to trade at lower cost through the elimination of intermediation and participation in global markets. Currently, these opportunities have not been fully identified and taken advantage of by developing countries and countries in transition due to information gaps, high cost and lack of external support in the start-up stages. The United Nations system can play a catalytic role by providing information, equipment and the networking capabilities through a strengthening of the Global Trade Point Network operated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Relation to medium-term plan

7. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, under programme 9 (Trade and development), particularly subprogramme 9.4 (Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency), and will complement relevant programme activities in that area. It will realize distinct results within two bienniums.

Expected accomplishments

8. The implementation of the project will contribute to (a) the elimination of some of the obstacles faced by developing countries participating in electronic commerce and increased access to physical network, resources and technology, and (b) enhanced awareness of decision makers

and negotiators from developing countries and countries in transition about the nature and issues related to electronic commerce. These accomplishments will be judged by feedback on use of electronic commerce by Government officials/decision makers who participated in training programmes; frequency of hits on the Global Trade Point Network (GTPNet) website; effective application by target countries of proposed new electronic commerce software; and responses to surveys regarding the extent of understanding of the nature of and issues related to electronic commerce through training materials provided by the project.

Duration

9. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Proposed activities

10. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Development and maintenance of information exchange and policy analysis frameworks, particularly for government officials in developing countries and countries in transition, on (i) the impact of current proposals made in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Trade Organization and elsewhere for a global framework for electronic commerce, and (ii) the nature and implications of potential internationally agreed commitments/standards in the area of trade facilitation and electronic commerce concerning government policies on the different sectors involved in issues related to electronic commerce;

(b) Analyses of the effects of internationally adopted documentary standards and business practices for electronic commerce (at both government and industry levels) on businesses in developing countries and countries in transition; and two high-level expert meetings to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the above studies;

(c) Expert assistance and advice provided to Governments on policy issues relating to trade facilitation and electronic commerce; trade points on the setting up and marketing of electronic commerce services for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) clients;

(d) Two round-table conferences on electronic commerce, bringing together Governments, the private sector and civil society;

(e) Development of specialized software, such as a database management system for electronic trading opportunities from the Global Trade Point Network, and dissemination through the network of trade points and the GTPNet website; enrichment of the GTPNet website through user-friendly design and the development of interactive features to improve communication with clients;

(f) Preparation of computer-assisted training courses for SMEs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on (i) export and import practices in the age of electronic commerce, (ii) international payments in electronic commerce, (iii) freight forwarding and electronic commerce, and (iv) international marketing, with a particular focus on the use of the Internet; and dissemination of information about electronic commerce, with a focus on issues of relevance for developing countries and countries in transition;

(g) Organization of a training-of-trainers course for participants from 10 pilot countries.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

B. Capacity-building in economic and social policy analysis in Africa through the networking of expertise (Economic Commission for Africa)

Objectives

11. Under the overall goal of assisting the understanding by the international community of emerging challenges and persistent problems in global development, the objective proposed is to achieve more informed and broad-based economic and social policy-making in Africa at the national level, through a network of development expertise on the region.

Background

12. Besides the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which has the responsibility to advise Governments on urgent national and regional policy issues, other institutions and independent researchers in and outside Africa also undertake research activities relevant to the African policy environment. Linking these institutions and providing results of their policy analysis more directly to decision makers would add value to and increase the policy impact of their work in the continent. The proposal will enable ECA to tap network-affiliated expertise in a cost-effective way to amass critical talent on behalf of the region, and to make available to Member States relevant advice in a timely manner. By teaming up with ECA, the networks and their affiliated policy researchers would enjoy the benefit of having a more direct impact on policy outcomes in ECA member States. In

the implementation of the proposal, ECA will mainly play the role of facilitator catalyst and serve as a clearing house for best practices and a source of African development information.

Relation to medium-term plan

13. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, under programme 14 (Economic and social development in Africa), particularly subprogramme 14.1 (Facilitating economic and social policy analysis), and will complement relevant programme activities in that area. It will offer a low-cost solution to developing countries in networking of development expertise, and will realize distinct results within two bienniums.

Expected accomplishments

14. The implementation of the project will strengthen a network of development expertise on Africa with and among research centres and individual experts, and enhance analytical and applied skills at the national policy-making level in support of economic and social policy-making. These accomplishments will be judged on feedback from research institutions in/outside Africa participating in the network including increased electronic communications between members of the network and electronic visits to databases, the number of researchers and interns who have completed exchange visits within the network, and the studies completed and disseminated on behalf of the network, and will be based on questionnaires to research institutions/researchers regarding skills/knowledge that have been acquired from use of the network and have been applied in government-sponsored research.

Duration

15. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Proposed activities

16. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Undertaking studies of common national policy issues, such as trade and exchange regimes, structural adjustment policies and private-sector promotion policies; undertaking analysis of subregional problems, such as economic integration, transportation and standardization issues, and water and natural resources management; conducting studies on Africa-wide issues and issues facing Africa versus the rest of the world, such as global environmental topics, international trade, monetary arrangements and external debt negotiations;

(b) Strengthening communications infrastructure through electronic connectivity with the target network institutions;

(c) Organizing an annual network partners forum;

(d) Setting up a visiting scholars' programme at ECA to increase the pool of professionals with hands-on experience in policy analysis and operations;

(e) Implementing a staff exchange between research institutions to pool expertise for its maximum usage in the region;

(f) Setting up a fellowship programme for young African professionals to familiarize them with and contribute to the research and policy operations of ECA, member States and the network, and to prepare these young people for possible career assignments to network organizations and member States Governments;

(g) Establishing and sharing common databases in the networks to increase the availability, quality and accessibility of basic research inputs;

(h) Developing research methodology expertise in the network.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

C. Extension of access of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to Mercure satellite telecommunication system for interconnectivity in environmental information and data (United Nations Environment Programme)

17. This proposal is being reconsidered, and UNEP will indicate, for possible future consideration, a reformulated project which will be jointly implemented with regional entities.

D. Computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control (United Nations International Drug Control Programme)

Objectives

18. Under the overall goal of promoting the developing of developing countries in the context of globalization and

increasing interdependence, objectives proposed are to increase the capacity of participating Governments for monitoring and management of the production, manufacture, consumption, stocks and confiscation of seizures of substances and preparations containing narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

Background

19. The production, manufacture of and trade in psychoactive drugs and the chemicals needed for their illicit manufacture should be controlled nationally and internationally. The purpose of control is to prevent diversion of substance into illicit channels, and to ensure that countries obtain the quantities that they need for medical, scientific and other licit purposes. Monitoring and managing movements of controlled substances is a complex process because it involves numerous partners. Information needs to be exchanged between commercial companies, national drug control administrations, customs officials and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board. To facilitate the process, a computer-based system, the Computer and Telecommunication System for International and National Drug Control, has been designed and is available to strengthen the management and control of licit movements of psychoactive drugs and precursor chemicals, and to enhance timeliness of information exchange at the national and international levels. The system primarily enables national administrations to keep track of all individual transactions in a computerized database. It handles issuance of import-export authorizations, certificates and pre-notifications with respect to international licit trade. The system has been developed in three separate phases. After collecting requirements from Governments during 1990–1994, the first phase was the actual development and test of the software package (1995–1996). The second phase covered implementation of the system in 25 countries (1997–1998). The third phase, covered under the present proposal, involves the application of the system in more countries, particularly developing countries, and its further substantive development. It will be achieved through the distribution, installation and training of the Computer and Telecommunication System for International and National Drug Control, as well as the addition of new modules covering additional aspects of demand reduction, such as an international drug abuse assessment system, and modules on supply reduction, illicit trafficking and law enforcement intelligence activities.

Relation to medium-term plan

20. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, under programme 13 (International drug control), particularly subprogramme 13.3 (Prevention and reduction of drug abuse, elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking), and will complement relevant programme activities in that area. It offers a low-cost solution to increasing the capacity of participating countries in the area of international and national drug control, and will realize distinct results within two bienniums.

Expected accomplishments

21. The implementation of the project will lead to the installation and effective use of the Computer and Telecommunication System for International and National Drug Control in participating countries. The system will offer support to Member States in the areas of data collection, analysis and other aspects of international and national drug control, while reducing the burden on Governments for manual data-gathering, maintenance and exchange. To evaluate the extent to which these accomplishments are attained, feedback will be sought from countries where the Computer and Telecommunication System for International and National Drug Control has been installed and used; and national users of the system with regard to its usefulness and effectiveness.

Duration

22. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Activities

23. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Installation of the specialized software to enhance the capacity to access, develop and utilize knowledge for the formulation of prevention and control policies, both nationally and internationally;

(b) Establishing means for data-secure information exchange among partners in international drug control, such as national health authorities, national law enforcement authorities, drug control councils, regional bodies etc., ensuring that national sovereignty and domestic data-protection regulations are fully met;

(c) Promoting, through advanced technology, easy and economic information exchange, international and national cooperation, and elaborating upon information

collection methodologies and standards for greater application worldwide.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

E. Capacity-building and networking for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in least developed countries (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements)

Objectives

24. Under the overall goal of assisting the understanding by the international community of emerging challenges and persistent problems in global development, objectives proposed are to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, to implement the Habitat Agenda and urban-related elements of Agenda 21, and to assess the impact of related policies and practices.

Background

25. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda is primarily the responsibility of Governments. International cooperation plays a supporting role in this process, particularly through networking, capacity-building and information exchange and dissemination. The Habitat Agenda calls for Governments to further strengthen and/or establish broad-based participatory national committees. Many countries have now established institutional mechanisms for the implementation of and follow-up to the Habitat Agenda. For some of these countries, the next step in the process is the designation and/or establishment of national and local urban observatories to collect, analyse and apply data and information on current human settlement policies, strategies, trends and conditions as a basis for the policy and decision-making processes.

Relation to medium-term plan

26. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, under programme 11 (Human settlements), and will complement relevant activities in that area. It offers a low-cost solution to developing countries in strengthening their capacity related to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and will realize distinct results within two bienniums.

Expected accomplishments

27. The implementation of the project will enhance core skills and knowledge of major groups in recipient developing countries relating to the analysis, exchange and application of data and information on urban indicators. To evaluate the attainment of these accomplishments, feedback will be sought from participating countries with regard to the extent that key groups have acquired core skills and knowledge relating to analysis, exchange and application of data and information on urban indicators.

Duration

28. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Activities

29. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Development and testing of training aids and methodological tools for the collection, analysis and application of urban indicators, best practices and good policies for the monitoring and implementation of national and local plans of action;

(b) Compilation of selected sets of indicators, best practices and legislation, and their analysis in terms of lessons learned;

(c) Organization of four subregional training and transfer workshops: two in Africa, one in Latin America and one in Asia; these workshops are to be preceded by three regional Internet conferences to assess and match supply with demand for expertise and experience. The workshops will result in the exposure of 120 representatives of national and local government, civic and community leaders, parliamentarians and practising professionals to the application of urban indicators, as well as lessons learned from best practices and examples of enabling policies and legislation;

(d) Organization of an interregional meeting of partners for refining training aids and methodological tools for their continued use and development on-line, and implementation of an on-line classroom. The on-line classroom will enable partners and national committees to continuously benefit from methodological, substantive and normative inputs from global monitoring and implementation activities, as well as to exchange experience and learn from each other.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

F. On-line network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance (Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat)

Objectives

30. Under the overall objective of promoting international cooperation for development in the context of globalization and interdependence, the proposed project will assist developing countries, including least developed countries, and also countries with economies in transition, in strengthening their institutional and human resources capacity through a network of regional and subregional centres for exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices in public administration and finance, especially in such areas as policies and strategies in public sector development, public sector reform, professionalism and ethics in the public service, legal and regulatory framework, administrative modernization and management innovation, public sector financial management and tax reform, public and private partnerships and privatization, and utilization and management of information technology in the public sector.

Background

31. The recent United Nations global conferences have stressed that strong public institutions, efficient public administration systems and a competent civil service are essential for the development efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. At the same time, deficiencies in institutional, financial and human capabilities of the public sector most negatively affect the delivery of essential social services. Many developing countries have embarked on administrative reforms and are in the process of undertaking programmes for modernizing public administration. To succeed in these reforms, access to highly reputed expertise, successful practices and experiences and training facilities is critical.

32. The proposal will assist existing regional/subregional institutions in the developing countries in creating electronic networks to exchange expertise and share experiences and lessons learned in the area of public administration and finance.

33. The proposed networks will be drawn upon already existing regional/subregional institutions devoted to public administration and development. It will initially comprise five pilot centres (two in Africa, one in Asia, one in Latin America and the Caribbean and one in Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States countries) which will be selected among a number of institutions operating in the developing world.

Relation to medium-term plan

34. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, under programme 28 (Economic and social affairs), subprogramme 28.8 (Public administration, finance and development), and is in pursuance of specific recommendations made by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996 on public administration and development.

Expected accomplishments

35. The proposal will strengthen the capacity of developing countries to carry out administrative reform and modernization by learning from experiences of other developing countries. It will promote linkages and cooperation within regions and between regions by facilitating exchanges among policy makers, practitioners and experts from research institutions. The project will effectively contribute to the development of human resources in the public sector in developing countries by utilizing technical expertise and capabilities available there. By enhancing the capacity of the regional and subregional institutions dealing with questions of public administration and finance to serve as catalysts for sharing information and expertise and providing training, the project will also increase developing countries' self-reliance in addressing problems in the field of public administration and finance. The attainment of these accomplishments will be evaluated through feedback from participating national and subregional institutions, particularly on the extent to which knowledge and information provided within the network have facilitated the advancement of specific goals of administrative reforms and modernization.

Duration

36. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Activities

37. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Assessment of existing problems and conditions in the selected regional/subregional institutions initially comprising the network and selected countries covered by the network to evaluate their needs, assess their existing capacities and undertake an inventory of existing

information, expertise and training materials which could be shared. The needs assessment missions will be followed by a virtual meeting of the team members of these missions with a view to formulating a strategy and plan of action;

(b) Provision of advisory and technical assistance to upgrade the expertise and the capacity in the regional/subregional centres so as to enable them to serve as repositories and distributors of information and providers of training. National, subregional and regional expertise will be extensively involved. This segment of the project will ensure the standardization and compatibility of the systems and procedures of all the pilot centres;

(c) Acquisition and installation of required hardware for each of the pilot centres and national institutions participating in the network, using local equipment, when available. Based on the above, appropriate software will be developed and adapted, as required, for each module of the network;

(d) Development of training materials and distance learning software and building on-line capacities in the countries served by the respective regional/subregional networks;

(e) Organization of on-line training seminars for each of the pilot centres with the view of maximizing the use of the regional/subregional networks established under (a) to (d). The particular focus of the seminars will be determined in consultation with all participating countries;

(f) Development of functional and electronic linkages among the regional/subregional centres with the view of creating a global network in the area of public administration and finance aimed at facilitating the exchange of information between regions and subregions, among participating countries, and between them and the regional and subregional centres on policies, best practices and lessons learned.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

G. Research network for development policy analysis (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

38. Under the overall objective of assisting developing countries to address emerging challenges and persistent problems, the objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of research institutions in developing countries to conduct development policy analysis, particularly in the examination of changes in domestic economic conditions and of regional and international developments that have a bearing on them.

Background

39. The role and impact of the external economic environment are growing in developing countries. The ability of these countries to sustain growth and development will depend increasingly on their participation through trade and finance, in the global economy. Successful integration of the economies is predicated, among other determinants, on their capacity to analyse current trends in their own and the global economy, and to anticipate possible changes in these trends in order to formulate and implement appropriate policy measures. Many developing countries, including least developed countries, need trained economic analysts who can provide national decision makers with timely analyses and forecasts of economic developments and policy options. The international macroeconomic research network maintained by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs can help to provide such training and assist in sharing national, regional and international sharing experiences on these matters.

Relation to medium-term plan

40. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan under programme 28 (Economic and social affairs), subprogramme 28.7 (Global development trends, issues and policies), and will exploit the policy research aspects of the Department's international network of forecasting experts by introducing a technical cooperation component aimed at upgrading the capacities of developing countries, including least developed countries, to prepare studies and forecasts of the development prospects at the national, subregional, and regional levels and the policy options open to them.

Expected accomplishments

41. The implementation of the project will enhance the ability of national economic analysts and decision makers, particularly in developing countries, to use internationally accepted techniques and frameworks to examine and forecast the macroeconomic performance of their countries. Feedback will be used to improve subsequent design and training. The training of researchers will be undertaken through regional and subregional network arrangements based in an institution in one of the participating countries. Feedback will be sought from researchers and research institutions to ascertain the extent to which they have acquired and applied

additional techniques of macroeconomic analysis and benefited from linkages to subregional, regional and global networks. Member States will also be requested to indicate the extent to which these institutions and networks have enhanced economic policy-making at the national level.

Duration

42. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Proposed activities

43. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Train researchers from developing countries in advanced techniques of macroeconomic analysis, particularly through regional and subregional cooperation and networking arrangements;

(b) Upgrade and — where necessary — develop economic and social databases and macroeconomic models in developing countries, and improve the integration of these databases and models with corresponding mechanisms at the regional and global levels;

(c) Enhance the capacity of institutions in developing countries to formulate development strategies by strengthening their ability to monitor national subregional, regional and international macroeconomic trends and incorporate them into the national framework for economic and social policy-making;

(d) Use developing country experts to build capacity for macroeconomic analysis and forecasting.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

H. Activities for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Objectives

44. The overall objective is building capacity in requesting developing countries in various aspects of the implementation of the global programmes and platforms of action, especially the follow-up to United Nations conferences. To realize this objective, the focus of the activities will be regional and subregional, using the expertise that is most relevant and available at this level to help the beneficiary countries meet the broader commitments agreed upon during the conferences. A special focus of the proposed project is to strengthen intraregional cooperation among regional and national statistical systems. This regional resource would play a critical role in statistical developments in the region and contribute to the preparation of regional analyses on social and environmental concerns, developing skills in the application of technology as a means for maintaining linkages with countries in the region, and for the dissemination of statistical information. This will reinforce existing South/South networks and create opportunities for experts to learn from rapid substantive and technological changes in the field of statistics; strengthen regional capability to produce analytical reports; improve the ability of national institutions to produce relevant statistics; and ensure capability to share information and results.

Background

45. The promotion of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are priorities of the approved medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. Policy development, networking especially of national experts familiar with regional and subregional issues, information exchange and dissemination are essential for the implementation of these programmes. The span of commitments and areas of action agreed upon in the conferences is extremely wide. To maximize the multiplier effects of the modest amount available under this project, proposed activities attempt to strengthen the information for decision-making. Agenda 21 calls for Governments to prepare national sustainable development strategies, programmes for monitoring their implementation, improving information for decision-making, establishing national councils for sustainable development, and promoting greater participation of civil society groups. The Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Summit invite Governments to further strengthen and/or establish broad-based participatory national and local mechanisms for implementation and follow-up based on partnerships of Governments (including local government), non-governmental organizations, citizen and professional groups, and the private sector. The Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action urge Governments to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women and to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes. The project

will support efforts of Member States to fully integrate the commitments made in these documents into decision-making and in improving related information systems for decision-making.

Relation to medium-term plan

46. The proposal is within the scope and priorities of the medium-term plan, especially programme 28 (Economic and social affairs), particularly subprogrammes 28.2 (Gender issues and advancement of women), 28.4 (Sustainable development), 28.3 (Social policy and development) and 28.5 (Statistics). It will complement relevant activities under those programmes to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to implement the declarations and programmes/platforms for action of major United Nations conferences.

Expected accomplishments

47. The implementation of the project will strengthen the capacity of national and local mechanisms, to collect, analyse and apply knowledge, information and expertise to policy development, with emphasis on (a) the preparation of national sustainable development strategies, decision-making and national information processes in support of the implementation of chapters 8 and 40 of Agenda 21; (b) programme design, monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects in support of the goals of the World Summit for Social Development; and (c) strengthening national machinery for the advancement of women, women and new technologies, and to support the increased role of women in leadership and public life, as recommended in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. To judge the realization of the accomplishments, information will be sought with regard to progress related to Internet-based electronic connectivity; capacities with regard to quality information for decision-making, including strengthened national capacity for basic statistical information, better sharing of statistical information at the regional and global level, as well as improved capacity for voluntary reporting on implementation of commitments.

Duration

48. The following duration is anticipated: 1999–2001.

Activities

49. The following activities are proposed:

(a) Organization of up to 10 regional/subregional consultative meetings to exchange national experience and information on the development and use of national approaches/strategies for and national experience in implementing Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(b) Provision of advisory support service to assist requesting countries in the preparation of national sustainable development strategies;

(c) Support and development of basic statistical capacity in requesting developing countries; conducting a needs assessment to determine the specific data requirements and gaps; developing training programmes and conducting a series of training workshops and seminars; upgrading technology for data processing; training national staff in using statistical information available on the Internet; developing a regional plan, initially within the Caribbean Community, for statistical development based on assessed needs; provide technical advisory services to selected countries upon request;

(d) Organization and conduct of regional and subregional workshops in support of capacity-building efforts on statistics, including on issues of standardization and sharing statistical information at the regional/subregional levels, particularly to assist countries in incorporating modern information systems and techniques into national decision-making processes;

(e) Provision of assistance to developing countries through regional and subregional expert consultations in developing statistical databases to address technical issues and problems, identify solutions, and overcome bottlenecks and trouble spots;

(f) Development of prototype mechanisms appropriate for national and local conditions to strengthen participatory programme designs, monitoring and evaluation;

(g) Preparation of guidelines and manuals for the use of conveners and participants in national and local mechanisms regarding the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

(h) Preparation of manuals and information material on participatory social assessment techniques;

(i) Activities to exchange experiences on national efforts to implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; the Beijing Platform of Action, especially the 12 critical areas, including enabling women's non-governmental organizations, particularly in developing countries, to build capacity for networking.

(For resource requirements, see annex)

Annex

Resource requirements, by project

(United States dollars)

Project title	*Amount*
A. Promotion of electronic commerce (UNCTAD)	1 980 000
B. Capacity-building in economic and social policy analysis in Africa through the networking of expertise (ECA)	2 500 000
D. Computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control (UNDCP)	1 100 000
E. Capacity-building and networking for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in least developed countries (Habitat)	945 000
F. On-line network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	1 525 000
G. Research network for development policy analysis (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	1 325 000
H. Activities for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	3 570 000
Total	**12 945 000**